1. ***Rewrite the following active sentences in the Passive. Include an agent (by….) ONLY if necessary***.
2. People often prefer coffee for breakfast.

Coffee…………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Somebody opened the door early this morning.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………..

1. Somebody will meet us at the station.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. They all expected the Prime Minister at three o’clock.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Nobody reads my poems nowadays.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Somebody will wake you at 7:00.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. One never mentions certain matters, except in private.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. An old servant looks after the house.

………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. The government paid for his education.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. You must write down everything I say.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. You must iron this dress for tonight.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………..

1. Did the noise frighten you?

……………………………………………………………………………………………………..

1. The orchestra played that piece beautifully.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………..

1. Somebody has locked the box and I cannot open it.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. ***(TWO OBJECTS) Rewrite in the Passive. Choose the object that produces more sensical sentences (more often than not, this is the indirect, animate object).***
2. The police gave her $5 reward.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………..

1. They promised us higher wages.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………..

1. Somebody will tell you what time the train leaves.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. Somebody has taught him French and has given him a dictionary.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. They had asked us several questions before they let us go.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. The authorities refused Mary a passport.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. They still deny women the right to vote in some countries.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. They have made my uncle a captain.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. When we first met, they had already offered me a job in the bank.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. The others told the new students where to sit.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

***Now…let’s refresh our memories on* ADVANCED PASSIVE STRUCTURES**

Consider sentences of the type:

***People think/believe/say…….that she is…….***

You can have 2 possible passive versions:

1. **She is thought/believed/said to be…… OR**
2. **It is thought/believed/said that she is…….**

The 1st version is clearer and neater. When the thought/belief concerns a past action, we use the perfect infinitive:

***People assume he was a spy. =} He is assumed to have been a spy.***

When the thought/belief itself is past, we use passive past in the reporting part if the sentence:

***People believed that he was dishonest. =} He was* *believed to have been/It was believed that he was dishonest.***

Other verbs found to form similar sentences:

***acknowledge, assume, believe, claim, consider, estimate, feel, find, know, presume, report, say, think, understand etc.***

**PRACTICE**

1. **Rewrite the sentences in the passive (using the first version(1) above).**
2. People know that Earth revolves around the sun.

Earth………………………………………………………….. .

1. People expect that the strike will begin tomorrow.

The strike……………………………………………………… .

1. It is said that Thomas drinks 2 litres of milk a day.

Thomas……………………………………………………….. .

1. People say that Arthur is very rich.

Arthur…………………………………………………………….. .

1. It was thought that the prisoner escaped by climbing over a wall.

The prisoner……………………………………………………….. .

1. It is alleged that he stole $6.000.000.

He……………………………………………………………………….. .

1. People reported that two people were seriously injured in the earthquake.

Two people…………………………………………………………….. .

1. People say that Jason won a lot of money gambling.

Jason……………………………………………………………………… .

1. Public opinion considered the project too expensive.

The project…………………………………………………………. .

1. It is assumed that he is 100 years old.

He…………………………………………………………………………………… .

All right! I’m sure you did great! Now take a look at this conspiracy theories game I came across and thought you might like. (source: eslgames.com)

Conspiracy theories

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| President Kennedy | were built by aliens |
| The moon landings | was killed by the British Secret Service |
| The 9/11 terrorist attacks | has been covered up since 1947 |
| Princess Diana | is controlled by reptilians |
| The world | was bought and hidden by oil companies |
| A UFO crash in New Mexico | have been abducted by aliens |
| Electric Car technology | were planned by the US government |
| Thousands of people | have been discovered on Mars |
| Ancient artifacts | was assassinated by the CIA |
| The pyramids | were faked |

Q. Which of these theories do you think is the most likely?

Q. Which is the least likely?

Q. Have you heard of any other conspiracy theories?

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